

MEMORANDUM

November 22, 2005

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Chris Carlson, Senior Fisheries Biologist

SUBJECT: Vernita Bar Redd Survey, November 20, 2005

Discussion: On Sunday, November 20, 2005 the sixth and final Vernita Bar ground redd count was conducted to set the 2005-06 Critical Flow Elevation for the Hanford Reach. The monitoring team representatives consisted of Paul Hoffarth (WDFW) and Chris Carlson (GCPUD). The third Monitoring Team member, Paul Wagner (NMFS), was unable to attend the redd count but was contacted by phone and concurs with this memo. Flows from Priest Rapids Dam at Vernita Bar were about 40 kcfs. Results of this survey are provided in the table below.

<u>Transect</u>	<u>----- Redd Count by Flow Level (kcfs) -----</u>						<u>Total Number Of Redds</u>
	<u>(36 – 50)</u>	<u>(50 – 55)</u>	<u>(55 – 60)</u>	<u>(60 – 65)</u>	<u>(65 – 70)</u>	<u>(Above 70)</u>	
Above A	--	--	--	10	4	3	17
A – AB	--	--	--	23	8	8	39
AB – B	--	--	--	21	14	22	57
Below B	--	--	--	12	9	27	48
C	--	--	--	8	3	0	11
Totals	--	--	--	74	38	60	172

No redds were counted below the 60 kcfs elevation since the proceeding redd count indicated that the Critical Flow Elevation would be above the 60 kcfs elevation and that there was a concern that inflows would limit the amount of time for the redd count.

Based on the survey count and the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement, the 2005–2006 Critical Flow Elevation is set at the 70 kcfs flow elevation (the agreement states, “If 31 or more redds are located above the 65 kcfs elevation, the Critical Flow Elevation will be the 70 kcfs elevation”). There were 98 redds identified above the 65 kcfs elevation.

The Vernita Bar Monitoring Team agreed that no redd count will be required next Sunday, November 27, 2005 since no spawning activity was observed during the redd count. Only a few female salmon were observed guarding their redd in the index area.

Based on these results above, reverse load factoring will end as of 0001 hours on November 21, 2005. A separate memo will be provided to Grant PUD Dispatchers outlining flow requirements to protect the Hanford Reach redds and fish.

During last year’s November 28 redd count, no redd count was taken between the 36-60 kcfs elevations, 55 redds were counted within the 60-65 kcfs elevations, 18 redds between 65-70 kcfs, and 6 redds above the 70 kcfs elevation. The 2004-05 Critical Flow Elevation was set at 65 kcfs.

This year’s Initiation on Spawning was set to be on October 26 for both zones below and above the 50 kcfs elevation during the October 30 redd count.

Priest Rapids Dam left the experimental spawning flow program and returned to Reverse Load Factoring on November 8, 2005 at 0600 hours. Daytime flows were targeted at 70 kcfs.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

(VBReddCountM.doc)

c: Linda Jones
Jeff Atkinson
Scott Bettin
Steve Brown
Scott Carlon
Dennis Dauble
Mike Erho
Gary Garnant
Paul Hoffarth
Lance Elias
Chuck Goligoski
Shane Bickford
Gary Donabauer
Bob Clubb
Don Anglin

Steve Hays
Leon Hoepner
Rick Klinge
John Muir
Rod Noteboom
Greg Lange
Russ George
Tom Lorz
Bill Berry
Geoffrey McMichael
Robert Mueller
Paul Wagner
Bill Tweit
Kevin Nordt

Bob Heinith
Cliff Sears
Lon Topaz
Rudd Turner
Dispatch
F WWQ Team
PRD Operators
Relicensing Library
WAN Operators
Kelly Harlan
Shane Scott
Greg Patton
Cathy Hlebechuk
Larry Beck